

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article comprising a front portion, a rear portion, a liquid-permeable top sheet, a liquid-impermeable backing sheet, and an absorbent body enclosed between the top and backing sheets, wherein the rear portion of the article includes a longitudinally extending ridge-shaped elevation that projects out from the side of the article that contains the top sheet,

wherein a central string of material extends in the rear portion of the article along the backing sheet on the side thereof distal from the absorbent body; and

the top sheet, the backing sheet and the absorbent body enclosed therebetween in the rear portion of the article extend around the long sides of said string.

2. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article comprising a front portion, a rear portion, a liquid-permeable top sheet, a liquid-impermeable backing sheet, and an absorbent body enclosed between the top and backing sheets, wherein the rear portion of the article includes a longitudinally extending ridge-shaped elevation that projects out from the side of the article that contains the top sheet ~~according to claim 1,~~

wherein a central string of material extends in the rear portion of the article;

the top sheet, the backing sheet and the absorbent body enclosed therebetween in the rear portion of the article extend around the long sides of said string, and

wherein the string comprises a rear portion of a longitudinally extending strip of flexible material that has a high coefficient of friction with respect to textile material and which extends in the front and the rear portion of the article and is fastened to the backing sheet on the side thereof that lies distal from the absorbent body.

3. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein those portions of the article which, in the rear portion of said article, extend around the long sides of the string of strip material abut one another and are fastened to each other in at least one place.

4. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 2, wherein the strip of flexible material is an elastic foam material.

5. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 4, wherein the elastic foam material is mounted in the rear portion of the article in a stretched state and in the front portion of the article in a relaxed state.

6. (Previously Presented) An article according to claim 4, wherein mutually adjacent portions of the material in the string of strip material are fastened to each other in at least one place.

7. (Currently Amended) An article according to claim 2, wherein the strip extends symmetrically on both sides of the longitudinal symmetry axis $[(A-A)]$ of the article and has in the front portion of said article a width which is greater than half the smallest width of the article in its front portion.

8. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing an absorbent article which comprises a front portion and a rear portion and which includes a longitudinally extending elevated section in its rear portion, the method comprises;

(a) placing a body of absorbent material on a first sheet of liquid-impermeable material;

(b) placing on the body of absorbent material a second sheet of liquid-impermeable material, and joining together the first and second sheets in those parts of the sheets that extend beyond the body of absorbent material, therewith forming a generally flat composite body,

(c) placing on the second sheet of the composite body a strip of flexible material that extends over at least a part of a front and a rear portion of the composite body;

(d) fastening the strip to the second sheet in the front portion of the composite body;

(e) forming that part of the strip which extends in the rear portion of the composite body into a longitudinally extending string; and

(f) folding those parts of the composite body that lie on respective sides of the longitudinal string of strip material in around said string and fastening said parts together in at least one place.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8, wherein the strip is comprised of an elastic material, and the part of said strip that extends in the rear portion of the composite body is stretched prior to carrying out step (f).
10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8, wherein the longitudinally extending strip is shaped by folding or rolling the strip together.
11. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 8, wherein by fastening the parts of the composite body that have been folded-in on respective sides of the longitudinal string of strip material to said string in at least two longitudinally spaced sections that extend around the string circumference.
12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8, wherein forming that part of the strip which extends in the rear portions of the composite body into a longitudinally extending strip prior to placing the strip on the composite body.